

Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

# State Water Resources Control Board

## Executive Office

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Gray Davis  
Governor

APR - 1 1999

Honorable K. Maurice Johannessen, Chairman  
Senate Select Committee on CALFED  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5061  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Johannessen:

This is in response to your February 18, 1999 letter requesting information on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) programs involving land acquisition and habitat restoration.

The SWRCB administers three programs that can involve watershed restoration by providing grants or loans to local public agencies or nonprofit organizations. However, as indicated in the following summaries for each program, the use of the grants or loans for property acquisition has been very limited in the past. The three programs are:

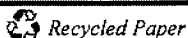
1. Federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program Grants

These grants are provided to local public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions for nonpoint source implementation projects, which may involve watershed restoration activities. These funds cannot be used for land acquisition.

2. State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for Nonpoint Source and Wetland Activities

SRF low interest loans can be provided to public agencies, nonprofit organizations and, in some instances, private parties to support efforts to address nonpoint source pollution or wetland/estuary restoration. These projects may involve projects on properties already owned by the loan recipient or may involve property acquisition. The SWRCB is holding the first deeds on property as security for loan repayment by the loan recipient. In addition, the enclosure describes an \$8 million SRF loan provided to the Nature Conservancy by the SWRCB specifically for purchase of property along the Cosumnes River in Sacramento County. However, the SWRCB is not the owner of these properties. Finally, the SWRCB will consider, at its April 14, 1999 Workshop Session, a request for a \$34 million SRF loan by the Napa County Flood Control District to purchase wetland and estuarine areas in the Napa Creek/Napa River Watersheds. If this loan is approved by the SWRCB, we will

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forward details of the District's acquisition later. As the SWRCB does not currently have Geographic Information System capabilities to display these projects, we must provide the information in hard copy format.

3. Safe, Clean, Reliable Drinking Water Act (1996 Proposition 204)--Delta Tributary Watershed Restoration Program

Under the Delta Tributary Program, the SWRCB provides grants to local public agencies for watershed restoration projects. The Delta Tributary Program grants cannot be used for property acquisition.

At this time, the SWRCB has no pending plans or programs to acquire property to be directly managed by the SWRCB or Regional Water Quality Control Boards for habitat restoration purposes. The SWRCB may continue to approve requests for SRF loans for restoration projects on a case-by-case basis.

Should you need additional information, please contact me at (916) 657-0941. Your staff may also call John M. Ladd, Assistant Chief of the Division of Water Quality, at (916) 657-1016.

Sincerely,

*Walt Pettit*

Walt Pettit  
Executive Director

Enclosures (1)

cc: Mr. Lester Snow  
✓ Execute Director  
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